

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on February 22, 2007, an objection was made to claim 23; claims 20, 24, 35, 40, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Buhler; claims 48, 49, 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuddes; claims 22, 23, 50 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuddes in view of Buhler; claims 21, 37, 39, 43-47, 51, 55 and 56 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 25-28 were allowed.

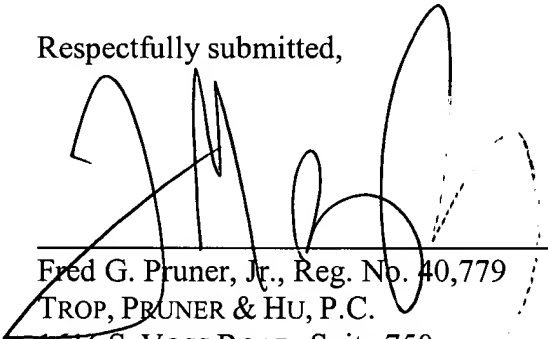
Claim 23 has been amended to refer to claim 22 to overcome the corresponding claim objection. The limitations of claims 21, 37, 51 and 55 have been incorporated into independent claims 20, 35, 48 and 52, respectively. For at least the reason that the Examiner indicated that claims 21, 37, 51 and 55 were allowable if rewritten in independent form, withdrawal of the remaining §§ 102 and 103 rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the remaining §§ 102 and 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0294US).

Respectfully submitted,

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